

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robert H. Miller House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1111 East 19th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lawrence

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66044

code 20

county Douglas

code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name (See continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Douglas County Courthouse

city, town Lawrence

state Kansas 66044

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Douglas County Historic Bldg. Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Douglas County Historical Society, 1047 Massachusetts St.

city, town Lawrence

state Kansas 66044

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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

The current owner is: Mrs. Leo Eller
1111 East 19th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

A contract for the sale of this property has been signed with the sale to be concluded in April, 1984. The new owner will be:

Dr. and Mrs. Dennis M. Dailey
1111 East 19th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert H. Miller home is a two-story, rectangular brick house built in 1858. A one-and-a-half story ell was added to the rear in 1863. The house stands facing north on a wooded five-acre tract which has become surrounded by suburban development in recent years.

The house has a symmetrical, three-bay facade with a center doorway. An early photograph shows that the house originally had a one-bay-wide, one-story Italianate porch. The porch has been replaced twice, with the present one dating from the 1950s. The six-over-six double-hung windows are all original with many original panes. The louvered shutters are also mostly original. The window openings have flat stone sills and lintels. The house originally had a molded wood box cornice with a plain frieze, which returned for about three feet on the gable ends. The horizontal portions of this cornice have been removed, leaving only the raking cornice at the gables.

The first floor plan originally had four rooms: two large rectangular rooms at the northeast and southwest corners and two smaller rooms at the northwest and southeast corners. In recent years the wall between the northeast and northwest rooms was removed to create a larger parlor space. The house has no central hall on the ground floor. The front door opens into the western end of the parlor, where a steep stairway rises to the second floor. The second story originally had a traditional plan of four rooms with a central hallway. A bathroom was later added at the south end of the hall, and closets were added to the bedrooms.

The gable-roofed ell on the western end of the south side of the house is now used as the kitchen, with the half-story above used for storage. A screened back porch has been added to the eastern side of the ell.

A cellar extends under the entire house, walled with limestone. In recent years the dirt floor has been partially paved in brick and concrete.

The property includes several outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, including a milk house (now garage), chicken house, barn, and brick privy.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1858, 1863

Builder/Architect "Johnston" - builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Miller house is significant both for its architecture and for its historical associations with a prominent early resident of the Lawrence area, thus meeting criteria B and C.

Architecturally, the Miller house is an exceptionally good example of the residential architecture of the Territorial Period in Kansas (1854-1861). Relatively few substantial houses remain from this period, and fewer still are as well maintained as this one. It shows the retention of the Georgian-derived house-forms into the 1850s in this frontier area but at the same time demonstrates the degree of architectural sophistication seen in this area only four years after it was opened to settlement.

Robert H. Miller moved to Douglas County, Kansas Territory, in 1858, having left his native South Carolina because of opposition there to his anti-slavery views. His son Josiah had moved to Kansas in 1855, becoming the editor of the first newspaper in the town of Lawrence, and had invited his father and the rest of his family to join him there.

Soon after arriving in the Lawrence area, Robert Miller began arrangements for the construction of his house. He apparently hired a man named Johnston as master builder, and kept thorough records of construction expenses. Family records indicate that the house was completed by December, 1858.

Miller was a prominent merchant in Lawrence. In 1858, while his house was under construction, he also began the construction of a store with an upstairs meeting room. Named Miller's Hall, this facility was widely used for public activities, including meetings of the Territorial Legislature.

On August 21, 1863, Lawrence was raided and sacked by guerilla forces under William C. Quantrill. En route to Lawrence the raiders stopped at the Miller home, but they continued on their way shortly afterwards without harming the house or any of its inhabitants.

The house remained in the ownership of Robert H. Miller's descendants until 1958, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Eller. Although it underwent some alterations at that time, the house has retained much of its original form and appearance. It stands today as an important physical artifact of the territorial period.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Item number 9

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"Josiah Miller," The United States Biographical Dictionary. Kansas Volume.
Chicago and Kansas City: S. Lewis & Co., 1879.

The account book of Robert Miller, Kansas Collection. Spencer Research Library,
University of Kansas.

Josiah Miller file, Kansas Collection. Spencer Research Library, University of
Kansas.

Reminiscences of William Miller, Kansas Collection. Spencer Research Library,
University of Kansas.

This nomination was prepared from materials submitted by Carol Eller McCaffrey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Douglas County Historic Building Survey. Lawrence, KS: Douglas County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Lawrence East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	0	7	5	1	0	4	3	1	3	3	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point 420 feet East of the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section five (5) Township thirteen (13) South, Range Twenty (20) East of the Sixth Principal Meridian; thence East 350 feet, thence south 620 feet, thence West 350 feet, thence North 620 feet to place of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date April 23, 1984

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone: (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Executive Director
title Kansas State Historical Society

date May 4, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

434

6961 IV NE
(LAWRENCE WEST)

ROBERT H. MILLER HOUSE
Lawrence, Kansas
Douglas County
UTM Reference
15/307510/4313330







